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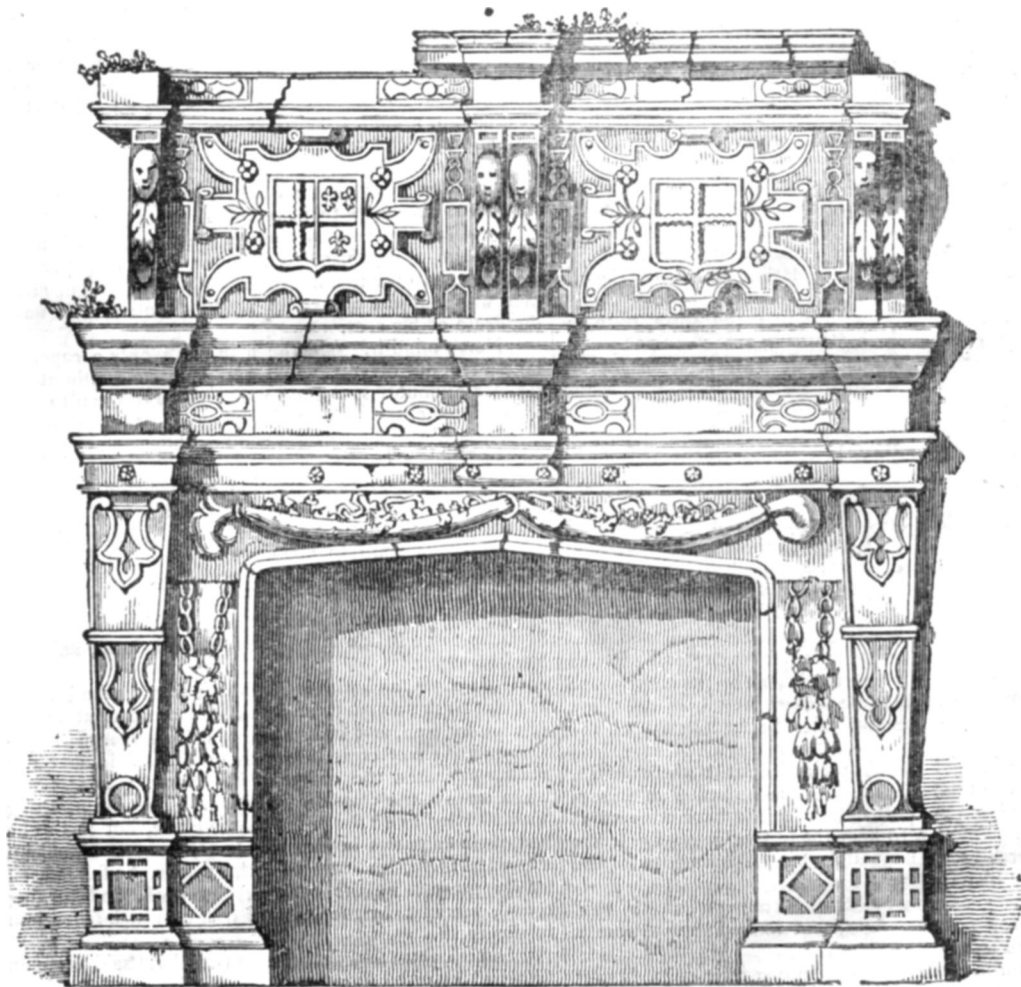
and who was in custody for another offence—he was brought forward and confronted with Tim, and his examination by an able counsel, who took Tim's part, brought a full confession of the entire transaction, when the jury at once returned a verdict of acquittal, which was hailed by a crowded court with demonstrations of the warmest feelings of pleasure; and a subscription was immediately entered into for the "poor Connaughtman," who, glad to be released from "durance vile," never, as he himself expressed it, stopped or stayed till he took his passage for Amerikey, in a ship at the time about to sail; and cautioning his poor countrymen to "mind their hits" when they would come to Dublin, and to eat a peck of salt with a man before they would trust him. He shortly after sailed for America, never to see his native land again.

MAC.

IRISH PEASANTRY.

The state of the habitations of the poor in many parts

of Ireland, is a libel on the humanity of their superiors. A fine dressed lawn, with miserable hovels on the outside, may be compared to the lace clothes and dirty linen some foreigners were accused of wearing—indeed nothing can be more contemptible and disgusting, or can reflect more discredit on the national character of the better classes, than such a contrast. The mansion house and the park want their most beautiful appendages, when filthy and unwholesome huts are substituted for clean and comfortable cabins; and *pleasure grounds* are *nicknamed*, when at every step of your progress, and at each opening of the prospect, your eyes are pained by dwellings for labourers, not half so convenient as the wigwam of the savage. Setting humanity aside, self interest should prompt such an improvement; for we can never have a hardy and effective race of labourers, while the rain penetrates the roofs under which they sleep, and their limbs, after a hard day's work, are exposed to the damp of a clay floor, saturated with water.



CHIMNEY PIECES IN DONEGAL CASTLE.

Donegal Castle was, for ages, one of the principal residences of the illustrious O'Donnells, the chiefs and princes of Tyrconnell—the *land of Connell*—from Connell, one of the most eminent of their ancestors. In the annals of the Four Masters they are called *siol na Dallagh*, i. e. *the seed of Dallagh*, from Dalagh, another of their chiefs. There was also a celebrated monastery here, in which the aforesaid Annals of the Four Masters were written, and they are sometimes called the Annals of Donegal from that circumstance.

On the fall of that family, in the reign of King James the First, and the attainder of the celebrated Red Hugh O'Donnell, (of whom an interesting account is given in

Sir W. Betham's *Antiquarian Researches**) and of Rory, Earl of Tyrconnell, their immense possessions were sequestered as forfeited to the crown, and granted to English and Scottish settlers, who are the ancestors of the present possessors of these estates.

This castle was granted by patent, dated 16th November, 1610, to Captain Basil Brooke, for twenty-one years, if he should live so long, with one hundred acres of land, the fishings, customs, and duties, extending along the river from the castle to the sea. Captain Brooke

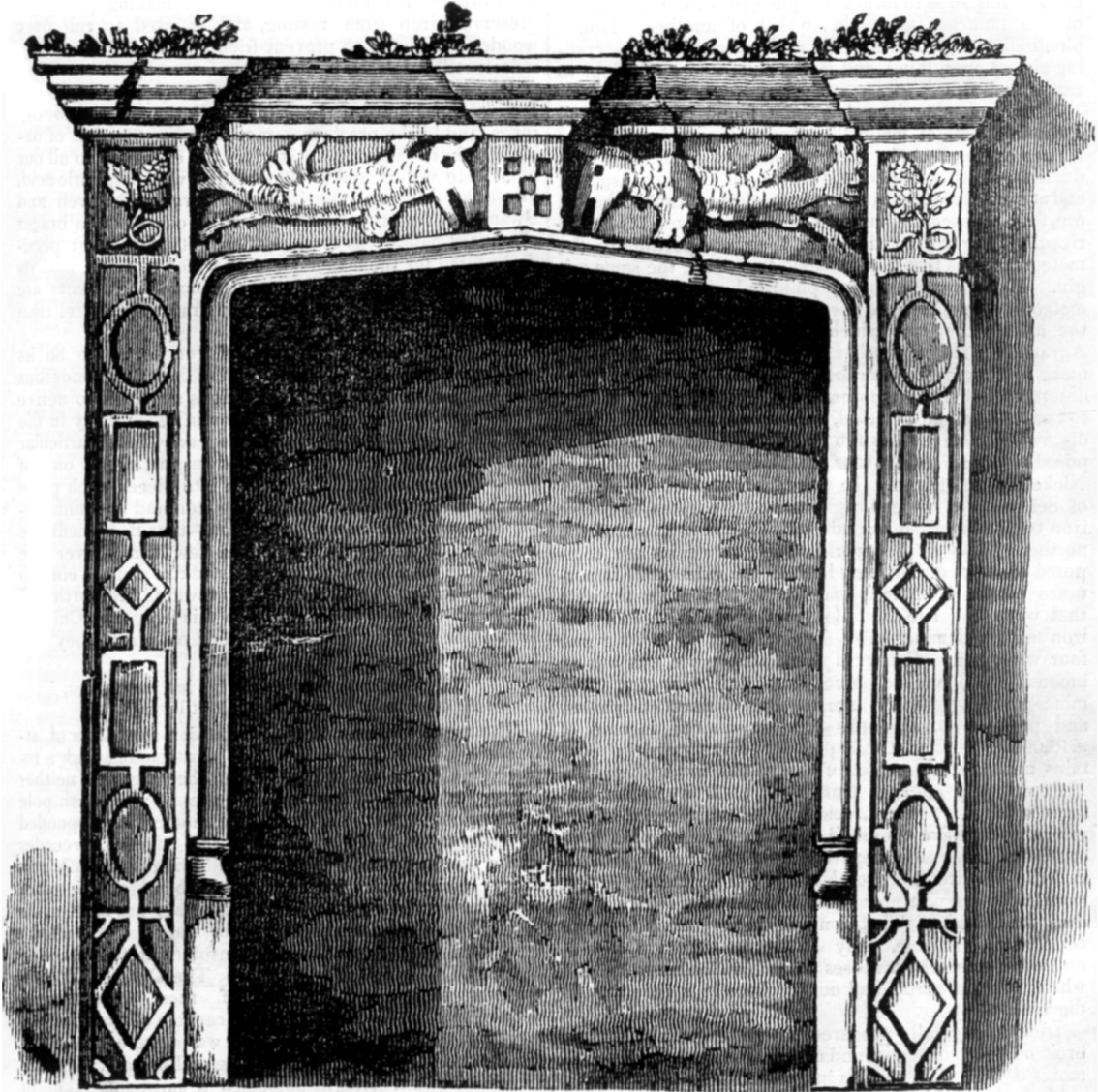
* We purpose giving this story in our next number.

was knighted 2d February, 1616, by Sir Arthur Chichester, Knight, Lord Deputy, and had a regrant of twenty-one years, or his life of the castle, by patent, dated 27th July, 1620; and on the 12th February, 1623, he had a grant of the fee of the castle for ever.

Sir Basil Brooke repaired the castle, and resided in it until his death in 1633. He was a branch of the family of Brooke of Norton, in Cheshire, and his lady was Anne, daughter of Thomas Leicester, of Toft, in that county. Henry Vaughan Brooke, Esq. Member of Parliament for the County of Donegal, was his descendant and heir at law, who left the estates of his family to his nephew, Thomas Grove, Esq. who took the name and arms of Brooke, by royal sign manual, in 1808. He died without issue, and the estates of the family went to Thomas Young, Esq. of Lough Esk, who also took the name of Brooke by royal sign manual, dated 16th July, 1830, and is the present possessor.

The Castle stands close to the side of the river, above

the bridge, and is in tolerable preservation. At present it is surrounded by a garden belonging to the inn, and great care seems to be taken to preserve it from further decay. On entering it, the visitor first comes into a large hall, arched above, and communicating with other apartments on the ground floor. From this a staircase leads to a large room on the second floor, which seems to have been formerly used as a banqueting hall, and still retains some vestiges of its former magnificence. At one end there had been a splendid window, reaching from the floor to the ceiling; but this is now nearly destroyed. The engraving represents a fine old fire place, which still remains entire in this apartment. It is made of freestone, and formed in the fashion of James I. The arms are Brooke empaling Leicester, which identifies them as put up by Sir Basil; the other, the arms of Brooke only. The other chimney piece is ornamented with fishes. They are both excellent specimens of the taste of that day.



The castle is well worth visiting. The family to whom it belonged, though they are now nearly forgotten, or only remembered by those to whom they are endeared by the traditions of the country, or by the few who find a pleasure in dipping into the ancient history of Ireland, once acted a very prominent part in the civil transactions of the kingdom. They received, perhaps, within these walls, embassies from foreign princes, and though it may be said of the last of their race, that

"In the fields of their country they found not a grave,"

yet they long continued to hold a distinguished place in the courts of foreign princes, and graced the hostile camps of Europe while fighting against their native land.

"Compell'd unwilling victories to gain,
And doomed to perish on a foreign plain."

Even as connected with the polite literature of the age, the castle has some interest from the frequent mention made of it in Lady Morgan's Novel of O'Donnell.